■ METRO/A23
168 Mall in Binondo raided over tenants' failure to show receipts

■ LIFESTYLE/E1
For only P349, you can wear the Infinity Wrap 12 ways

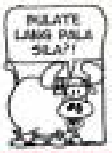
■ WORLD/A25
Protests prompt Thaksin to ponder retirement soon

■ ENTERTAINMENT/A2-1
Blame it on bossa nova: Sergio Mendes here for 1-night gig, explains stunning 5-decade career

PHILIPPINE DAILY
# INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, March 17, 2006 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 99 P18

## Miriam to AFP: You're like worms, stay in your holes




By Philip C. Tubeza

MUCH MAY BE MADE OF the Armed Forces' touted neutral stance, but no one in the administration has said on the idea that it is the military "holding the nation together," Administration Sen.

MIRIAM A4

## Rogues' gallery hit: Violation of presumption of innocence

By Armand N. Nocum

PUTTING UP A "ROGUES' GALLERY" OF PURported coup plotters will violate the right to privacy and impose a "chilling effect" on all critics of the government, constitutionalist Fr. Joaquin Bernas and the Concerned Lawyers for Civil Liberties (CLCL) said yesterday.

The CLCL also said the planned rogues'

ROGUES A4

# US tells Erap, JV, Ping: We bugged you

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE UNITED STATES, SMARTING from an unprecedented spying scandal in the White House allegedly involving Filipino-American Leandro Aragoncillo, had bugged former President Joseph Estrada and his son, Mayor Joseph Victor (JV) Ejercito of San Juan, official sources said.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the case, said Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson had also been subjected to wiretapping.

The US Embassy sent a diplomatic note dated Feb. 1 to the Department of Foreign Affairs, transmitting "legal Notices of Interception of wire and/or electronic communications for Joseph Estrada and JV Ejercito."

"The embassy requests assistance from the [DFA] in serving the notices on these individuals. The embassy also requests confirmation that the Department has been able to do this," the note said.

A copy of the note was given to the Inquirer by one official source. The Inquirer was allowed to read the legal notices dated Dec. 16, 2005. The sources said the Department of Justice served the notices to the parties three weeks ago.

The sources said that the notices were intended to alert the recipients that they could be implicated in the spying controversy and could be brought to the United

US TELLS A4



ESTRADA notified officially that he was under surveillance. AFP

# 65% want Arroyo out

## Pulse Asia poll says 6% back coup d'etat

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

UP TO 65 PERCENT OF Filipinos believe that the resignation or removal of President Macapagal-Arroyo from office is the best way to solve the country's political crisis although they have not formed a consensus on how her successor should be chosen, according to the latest nationwide survey by Pulse Asia Inc.

In its analysis of the survey conducted from Feb. 18 to March 4 this year, Pulse Asia said Ms Arroyo's declaration of a state of national emergency may have influenced the desire of more Filipinos to see her step down.

"The proportion who chose the resignation option is larger among those who were interviewed after the declaration of a state of emergency (61 percent) than among those who were interviewed prior to 24 February 2006 (53 percent)," said Pulse Asia. Only a quarter of the 1,200 interviews were made after Proclamation No. 1017 was issued on Feb. 24.

The survey had a margin of error of 3 percentage points either way at the 95 percent confidence level.

65% WANT A4




SCHOOLYEAR ENDS BUT NOT PROTESTS. Students' rally at the Quiapo Church on Thursday was short on protesters but long on meaning as they claim it signals the start of the youth's so-called "Summer Strike" against President Arroyo.



NO. 1 WELL-WISHER: President Arroyo poses with the priests and staff of the Diocese of Bayombong in Nueva Vizcaya headed by Bishop Ramon Villena (left) who turns 67 on Thursday. The known antimining advocate Villena is the third bishop Ms Arroyo met in seven days.

## For ₱5M, call PNP 117 with info on Gringo

By Tarra V. Quismundo, Luige A. del Puerto and Margaux C. Ortiz

POLICE YESTERDAY SET AT P5 MILLION THE bounty for former Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, who was charged with coup d'etat on Feb. 24, the day President Macapagal-Arroyo placed the country under a state of emergency in the wake of an alleged coup.

The case against Honasan, one of those linked to a rightist and leftist plot to overthrow Ms Arroyo last month, was in connection with the takeover of the Oakwood Premier apartment-hotel in Makati City by the Magdalo group of soldiers in 2003.

Police placed a total bounty of P3 million on the heads of Honasan's six alleged co-conspirators.

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao told reporters that posters with pictures of the seven fugitives led by Honasan would be placed

FOR P5 M A4

## Pa's advice to son: JPE tells Honasan not to surrender

By Philip C. Tubeza

LIKENING FORMER SEN. GREGORIO "Gringo" Honasan to his own son, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday said he would not advise Honasan to surrender to police authorities.

Enrile said he doubted that the government case of coup d'etat against Honasan would hold water, adding that he would have known if the cashiered Army colonel was planning to violently overthrow the government.

"If I were not in the Senate, I would love to handle the case and make mincemeat of the case of anyone against these people," he added.

Enrile said he was willing to act as an intermediary but he discouraged the administration from taking drastic steps against Honasan as this could lead to a repeat of the coup-ridden years of the Aquino administration.

"I will not convince him to surrender," Enrile said, in reply to Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor's appeal for him to urge Honasan to surrender.

Honasan was Enrile's longtime military aide when Enrile was defense minister during the Marcos regime. Both of them were involved in a failed coup against Marcos that

PA'S ADVICE A4

## Tough to be a Rosales after a Sin

By Christian V. Esguerra

IT'S TOUGH BEING GAUDENCIO Cardinal Rosales.

Often compared against the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, the low-key archbishop of the powerful Metropolitan See of Manila isn't exactly staying at sole year, especially now that he's got the red hat.

Two days before leaving for Rome for his induction into the College of Cardinals, the 73-year-old cardinal made clear no changes were forthcoming, if only to satisfy a public that can't seem to get enough of Cardinal Sin, his popular and outspoken

TOUGH A4

## Bernas urges SC to speed up 1017 ruling

By Armand N. Nocum

A ROMAN CATHOLIC EXPERT ON CONstitutional law yesterday urged the Supreme Court to speed up the resolution of cases questioning the legality of President Macapagal-Arroyo's proclamation of a state of national emergency and other controversial orders, saying the delay was legitimizing the allegedly oppressive and questionable actions of her administration.

Fr. Joaquin Bernas told a news conference he was concerned that the delay in the court's ruling on these issues could lead to a situation similar to martial law under the deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos where the high court "legitimized actions that were later disowned by the 1987 Constitution."

Thus, the only way for the court to stop making itself a legitimizer of allegedly repressive laws would be for it to immediately rule on cases involving the suppres-

BERNAS A10

## Pasig businessman killed in front of wife; she tags Chavit

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.
Metro
and Leonardo Belen Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BUSINESSMAN LEONARDO UMALE HAD just gotten off his white Mercedes Benz and was about to enter his eight-story Pearl Plaza Building at the Ortigas Center in Pasig City shortly before noon yesterday. He never made it inside.

In front of his wife and in the full view of students eating in restaurants on the ground and upper floors of the building on Pearl Drive, one of at least four men shot Umale at close range, hitting him four times in the nape and head.

His building electrician, Ernesto Lanton, also sustained a gunshot wound in his belly. He was still being operated on as of press time.

Hours after Umale was killed, his wife Clarissa emerged from the emergency room of The Medical City and yelled at two reporters waiting outside.

"You should interview Chavit Singson," she said in Filipino, repeating it about three times, while clutching a brown rosary. Her green blouse and cream pants were splattered with the dried blood of her husband. She was referring to Ilocos Sur

PASIG A10

# GMA foes to revive impeachment

## Party-list solons to ask SC to stop DOJ probe

By Michael Lim Ubac

By Christine O. Avendaño

OPPOSITION LEADERS YESTERDAY expressed confidence they would have enough witnesses, evidence and support from their fellow lawmakers to initiate a new impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.



MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

### Hopeful

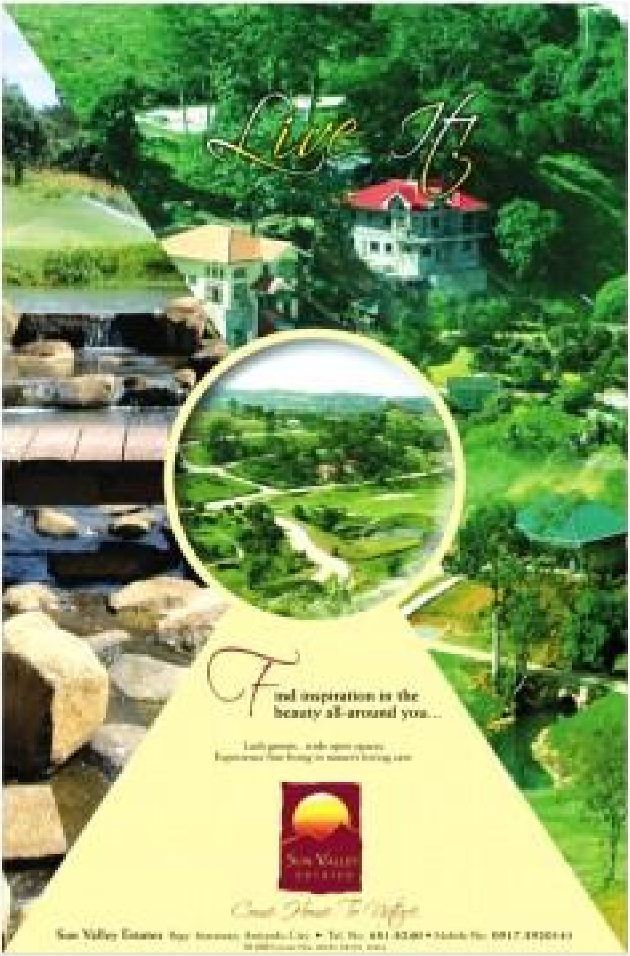
### New warning

# Time correspondent stands by story on foiled coup attempt



COJUANGCO

## Correction






# 65% want Arroyo out as best way to solve RP crisis


THE THINGS students plan this summer include the youth's continuing protest against President Arroyo which they begin over again on Thursday in Quiapo, Manila.

### Aversion to military rule

### GMA most unacceptable

### Distrust ratings

# US tells Erap, JV, Ping: We bugged you; legal notices served

### White House 1st spy case


LACSON: It's a matter of statutory procedure.


EJERCITO


AQUINO: Former senior superintendent Lacson aide


ARAGONCILLO: FBI intel analyst

### Phone and e-mails tapped

### Signal of prosecution?

# Deal with Marcoses needs Palace OK

By Alcuin Papa

### Why not?

# Oil firms cut prices of LPG

By Abigail L. Ho

# Tough to be a Rosales after a Sin

### More a home person

### Grass-roots politics

### No parent on Edsa I

### 'Theology of the crumbs'

### Self-effacing



# Miriam to AFP ...

### Easy prey

### Dangerous game

### Pariah

# Pagasa warns of more disasters with onset of La Niña

THE DAILY GOSPEL






# For ₱5M, call PNP 117 with info on Gringo

### Hotline

### Warrants issued Feb. 28

### Posters

### Police and NBI teams

### Palace to Gringo: Surrender

### It happened long time ago

# Pa's advice to son: JPE tells Honasan not to surrender

### Emotional pain

### Not capital offense

### Cooler heads

### Dangerous

# Rogues' gallery hit: Violation of presumption of innocence

### Wild, Wild West

### Witch-hunt

### Mockery

### 'Just file charges'

### License to kill

### In bad faith


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# RP is Asia's kidnapping hot spot, says think tank

### Main targets

### Victims blamed

### Rebuilding image

# Pasig businessman killed in front of wife; she tags Chavit

From page A1

### Singson: Umale an ally



POLICE secure the crime scene at the Pearl Plaza building in Ortigas Center in Pasig where businessman Leonardo Umale was shot dead.

### Handguns

### Well-planned

## Umale had many enemies

By Luige A. del Puerto

### Chavit's men



# Bernas urges SC to speed up ...

From page A1

### Last bulwark of democracy

### EO 464, CPR, 1017

### SC legitimized martial law

### 'Clear, present danger rule'

OMBUDSMAN'S REPLY

# Gutierrez: My job is to uphold justice

Conviction rate



NOTICE TO MAYNILAD WATER CUSTOMERS AND THE PUBLIC

# Gov't wants Piatco ruling clarified



## Antimine group duped GMA, says Albay vice gov

## Plan holders hale CAP to high court





…the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in preparation for a test run by local

# Miriam comes to Nene's defense

By TJ Burgonio

# Looking for another Magsaysay

By Reynaldo Pacheco

### Famous and respected

### Annual prize

### Set example

INQUIRER

# OPINION

# Deadly candor

EDITORIAL

[illegible]




# Gov't documentary 'Kataksilan' is libelous

AS I SEE IT

*Neal H. Cruz*

[illegible]

# Milosevic: A death unmourned

PASSION FOR REASON

*Randy David*

[illegible]

# RP getting closer to a police state

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



# Why Filipino (2)

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



# 'Moral lynching' and indifference

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



# The crisis of Thai democracy

WORLD VIEW

Thitinan Pongsudhirak

# Even a Grade I pupil knows the meaning of 'best'

LETTERS




## Who should be jailed?

VOICES ON INQ7.NET



# Proimpeach gov sacked as RDC head

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO removed South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes as chair of the Regional Development Council (RDC) for Central Mindanao in a move that was seen as a retaliation for the governor's support of Ms Arroyo's impeachment.



KALINGA FEAST

## Roundup

### Army uniforms banned

### Catechist suffers landslide loss

### NPA member slain

### 1 dead in armed robbery

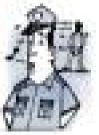
### DAR launches project

### Archivists hold workshop



TREE SOLDIER

## Militants dare gov't: Arrest us



## Urinating in public unlawful, but...

**Reminder**

**Penalties**

# Muslim leaders urge release of Nur Misuari




## RP: From exporter of coffee to importer



## Manila-Vigan flights planned


Robinsons Supermarket
WOW!
Low-low prices
March 17- 30, 2006
GLINTER SOFT DRINK
Orange & Peach
P25.50
ENERGIZER
P129.
ENERGIZER
P129.
Alpo Digestive Adult Dog Food Beef & Chicken (3kg)
P270
HOT BUY
P25.
P45.
P139.
P99.
P45.
P585.
P4.
P46.
P34.
P16.
P47.
P23.
P95.
P53.
P4.
P51.
P490.
P27.
P64.
Chocopie
P46.
P22.
P129.
P170.
P40.
P11.
P17.
P180.
P23.
P205.
P164.
P12.
P26.
P25.
P145.
APPLE TAG SPECIALS
Get DISCOUNTS and
WIN instant prizes DAILY
with every P150 single receipt purchase of
Whole Health items with Apple Tags
FREE
Eat Well



BIRTHDAY GUEST

# Reyes accused of 'double talk' on Bulacan mining

# Sariaya port cleared after customs check

# GMA keeps safe distance from media during visit to Bohol

# 2 US Marines in Subic rape set for arraignment



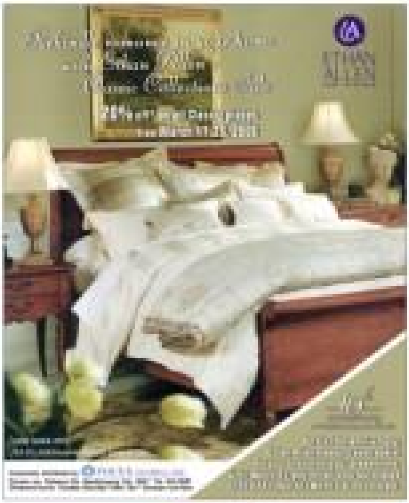

# No live TV for Erap testimony–Sandigan

LOTTO RESULT

SUERTRES EZ2

SIX DIGIT

SUPERLOTTO 6/49





A plus METRO



WHAT'S INSIDE /A24
Truck driver in Denver Razon car accident says he's not guilty



BUREAU of Customs policeman inspects goods sold inside the mall before inventory.

# 168 Mall in Binondo raided

By Leila B. Salaverria

A TEAM OF BUreau of Customs personnel raided the 168 Shopping Mall in Binondo, Manila, yesterday and asked tenants to show proof taxes and duties had been paid on their imported merchandise.

The raiding team seized or froze 20,000 units of suspected smuggled goods by late afternoon after most stall owners or their helpers failed to produce the necessary receipts. The inspection and inventory of goods were expected to continue until today but it would be business as usual for other tenants of the mall, according to Ronald Sagrado, president of Yekado Development Corporation which runs the mall.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales and President Macapagal-Arroyo herself ordered the raid, which was prompted by complaints from the Philippine Retailers Association about unfair trade practices.

He said the operation, involving more than 100 customs personnel, was meant to send a signal to "economic saboteurs."

The 168 Shopping Mall, popular because of its low prices, has about 800 vendors of clothes, shoes, bags, makeup, toys, accessories, household items, and school and office supplies, among others. It is air-conditioned and has a food court on the third floor. Customs Deputy Commissioner Gallant Soriano said goods not found duties and taxes were sold at much lower prices, unfairly competing with local merchandise. He said the bureau was trying to determine the port of entry of the merchandise. As most stall operators were Chinese nationals, the bureau informed the Chinese Embassy of the operation, said Morales.

Waldo Villanueva, external affairs officer of the 168 Shopping Mall, said the mall was not aware of the status of goods sold in the shopping center. "We're not involved in selling, we're just leasing the space," Villanueva told reporters. "We don't know about the transactions."

Morales said the BOC would not be going after mall officials as the bureau knew it merely rented out space to tenants. He said the mall was not obliged to check the status of the items sold by tenants, but the BOC had the authority to check if establishments selling imported goods paid taxes, Morales added.

After the inventory, seized goods would be stored at the BOC. Tenants could show proof of tax payments at a hearing later. Otherwise, the items would be forfeited in favor of the government. "We will follow due process. But if the owners fail to prove they paid taxes, they could also be held liable for smuggling," Morales said.

# Pawnshop loses P6.1 M to thieves




Torch gang

Loot

Discovery

Tenants

Suspects

Favorite tool

Copycats?

## MetroBriefs

### QC school gets new laptops

### Run was not fun



### RMCHS Class '76 sets 30th year reunion

# Truck driver says accident not his fault





# Lawyers, urban groups seek NorthRail halt

Respondents



PR AWARDS FOR ADB

# Ultra stampede victims' kin want 'Wowowee' off the air

# The WORLD

# US to China: Explain buildup

## Huge Sino defense spending worries America

SYDNEY—THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED about China's military buildup and Beijing should make its intentions clear, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Thursday.



RICE making her point aboard USS Port Royal in Sydney on March 16.

# Unforgivable crime, Abbas brands raid



PALESTINIAN Authority President Mahmoud Abbas surrounded by guards and media during a visit to the rubble of the prison damaged in an Israeli Army raid in the West Bank town of Jericho March 15.

## *But US strategy tags Iran as biggest threat*

### WorldBriefs

#### Despite US, new UN rights council

#### Widows not as grief-stricken as believed



#### Saddam urges war on US in trial

#### Clooney gives Oscar swag to charity



CLOONEY

#### PlayStation3 release now in November

# As protests grow, Thaksin ponders retirement

# Milosevic medical mystery deepens



SOCIALIST party officials kiss and touch the coffin of the late Milosevic, draped with a Serbian flag, upon its arrival in Belgrade airport March 15.



# SPORTS




# RP Open golf gets big lift



A NEW BEGINNING FOR THE PHILIPPINE OPEN GOLF Championship is looming on the horizon.

[illegible]

# Tierro stuns Korean, meets No.1 Austrian

[illegible]












# Kings parade hurting Menk vs SMB today

# Balasabas repulses Caddies' pursuers



## Pilipinas Basketball to widen scope

## Pals eye HK win

## Boxers should emulate Flash Elorde

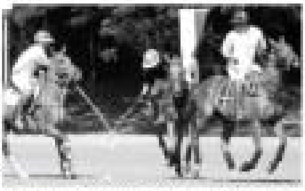
CLEAN LIVING



## Loyola kartfest guest



## NBC heads south



## SPORTSWATCH

### Taekwondo, wushu in summer sports

### JP Tuason leads TRS-Tony Kart team

### NCFP Region I elims go to Pangasinan

### PCCA derby holds 60 fights today



# Pichay new NCFP president


DELA MERCED

# Lady driver joins AF3


DENVER'S Carmelo Anthony shoots off Indiana's David Harrison

# Pistons return to usual form

TORONTO—CHAUNCEY BILLUPS had 26 points and 10 assists as the league-leading Detroit Pistons defeated the Toronto Raptors, 106-98, in the NBA Wednesday at the Air Canada Centre.

WORLD BASEBALL

# Cuba, South Korea gain

# Hingis, Sharapova advance


HINGIS

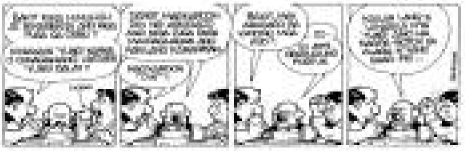

SHARAPOVA

FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND







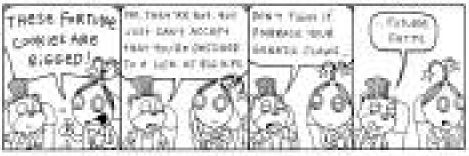


BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT



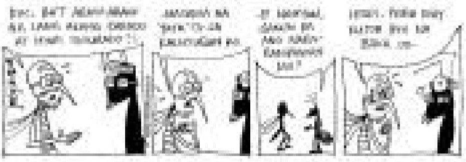

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



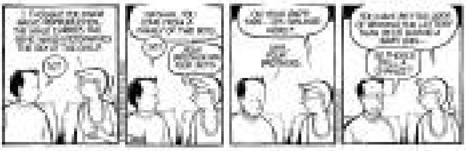




DIVINE COMEDY

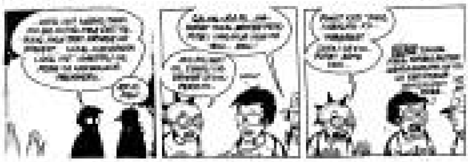




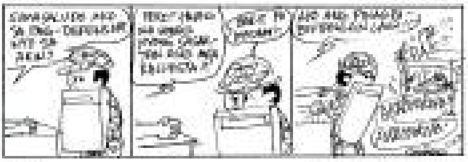
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

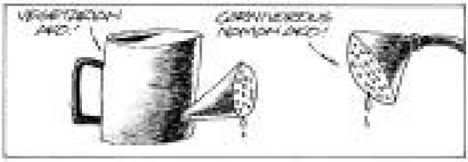


KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA



LOVENOTES BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO





# Horoscope

# Daily Crossword

# ENTERTAINMENT

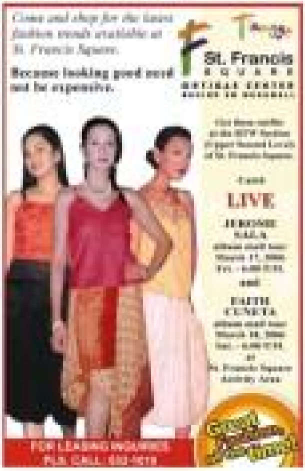


# Blame it on the bossa nova!

Sergio Mendes, in Manila for a one-night gig, answers questions about his stunning five-decade career

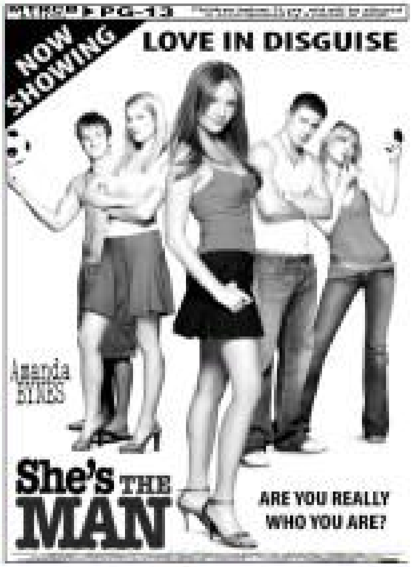
# New MMFF rules out

#### Festival suffers



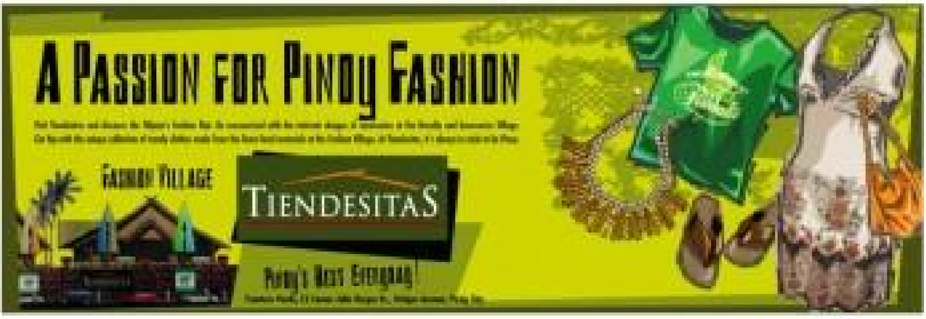












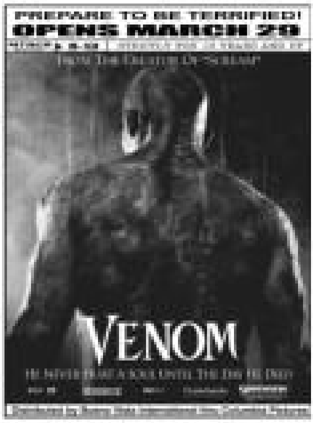
# Blame it on . . .

From page A1



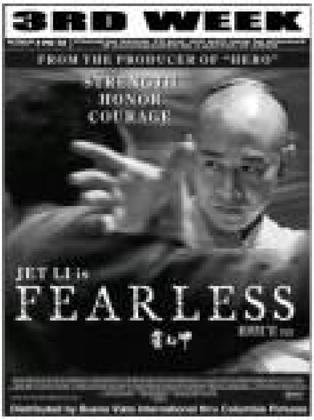


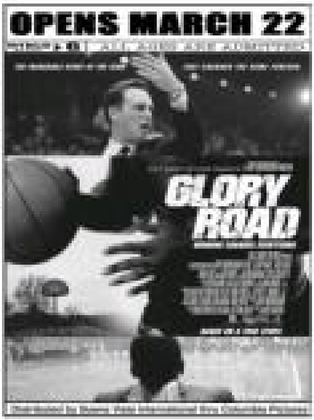


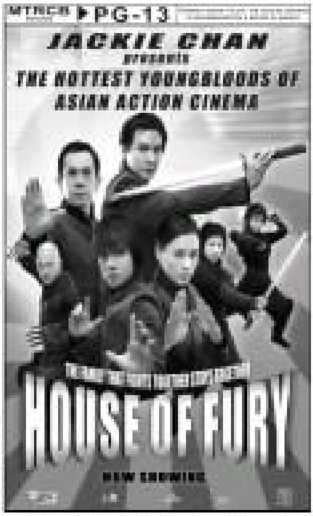


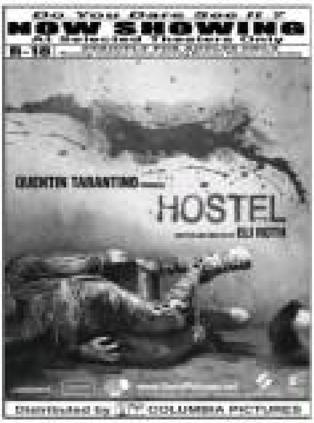


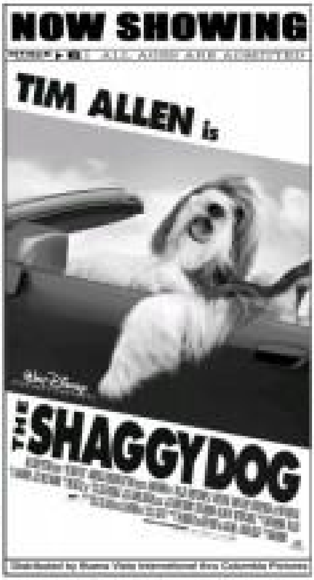




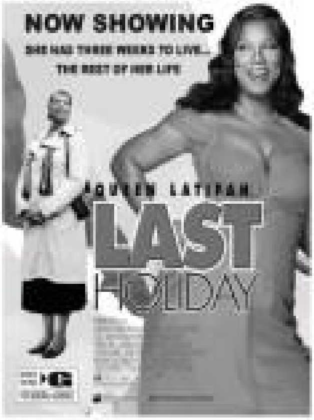












# New rules…

From page A1

[illegible] to finish his entry, Joel [illegible] the required number of prints and promote his movie well."

Joel reiterated that this new rule was meant to "help small producers, so that they wouldn't be shadowed by the big ones at the box office."

## One star

Two other new regulations limit two entries per genre and one (different) star per film, but producers are still encouraged to submit as many entries as possible.

Joel clarified that the "one star per movie" rule was an old regulation and was designed to ensure the movies' commercial viability. "Two movies with the same lead star might cancel each other out at the tills."

The same rationale is behind the limit on the number of films per genre.

## 3 genres

Said Joel: "Strictly speaking, there are only three genres, but in our rules, we've expanded that to [illegible]."

The new MMFF "summary of rules," however, yielded nine genres: action, drama, comedy, horror, adventure, [illegible], science fiction, fantasy or [illegible].

In the selection of entries, the highest percentage (40 percent each) is reserved to commercial viability and universal or global appeal and the remaining 20 percent to Filipino cultural and/or historical values.

## Subsidy

Unlike last year's incentive which was pegged at P500,000, the producers' subsidy for 2006, "shall be determined subject to the availability of funds and the income from the festival."

Whether old or new, Joel said, the MMFF rules are meant to ensure the festival's financial success—especially since Chair Fernando is aiming for an almost 100 percent increase in gross from last year's earnings—or a total of P1 billion in 2006.

Joel concluded: "Chair Fernando believes that if a movie is [illegible], people will simply not patronize it."

**FEEDBACK**

## Kudos to Ruffa

From Brad [illegible] ([illegible]@yahoo.com), [illegible], Pasig City

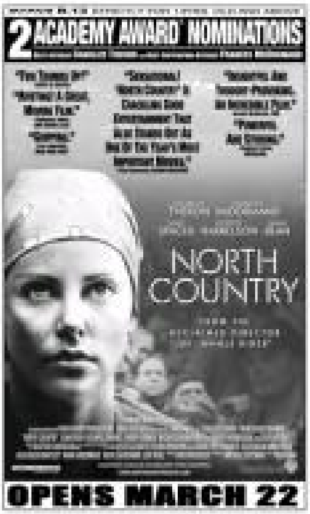
It was great for Ruffa and her friends to think of a "[illegible]" for Lyca. [illegible]

# The sparkling Ms Portman

From page A2-1

How did you become a vegetarian?

What is your next film? And what do you do for fun?
















## AT THE CINEMAS

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G1 | HOUSE OF FURY | V FOR VENDETTA | HOSTEL | SHE'S THE MAN | | | |
| G4 | SHAGGY DOG | HOSTEL | V FOR VENDETTA | YOURS, MINE & OURS | 16 BLOCKS | SHE'S THE MAN | DATE MOVIE |
| GB1 | 16 BLOCKS | V FOR VENDETTA | | | | | |
| GB3 | SHE'S THE MAN | V FOR VENDETTA | 16 BLOCKS | DATE MOVIE | HOSTEL | | |
| ATC | V FOR VENDETTA | SHE'S THE MAN | SHAGGY DOG | YOURS, MINE & OURS | HOSTEL | | |
| ACC | V FOR VENDETTA | HOSTEL | PRIDE & PREJUDICE | CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 | | | |
| M2 | V FOR VENDETTA | HOSTEL | HOUSE OF FURY | SHE'S THE MAN | SHAGGY DOG | | |

## At the Activity Center

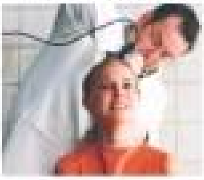
| GLORIETTA | TOWN |
|---|---|
| BPI Installment Madness | |
| AYALA CENTER CEBU | MARKET! MARKET! |
| | Makati Auto Car Show |







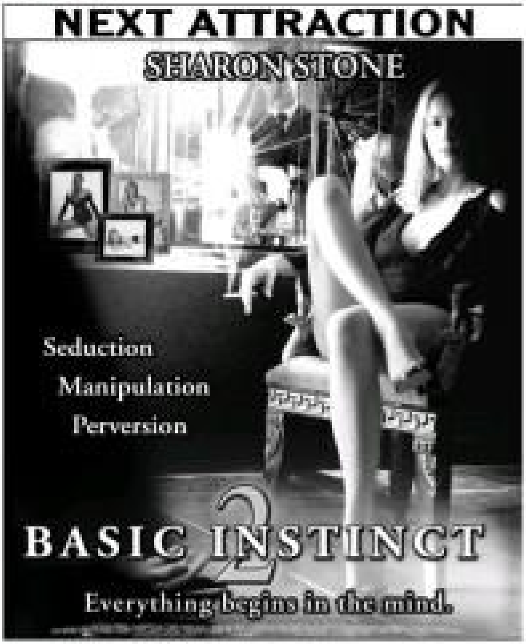


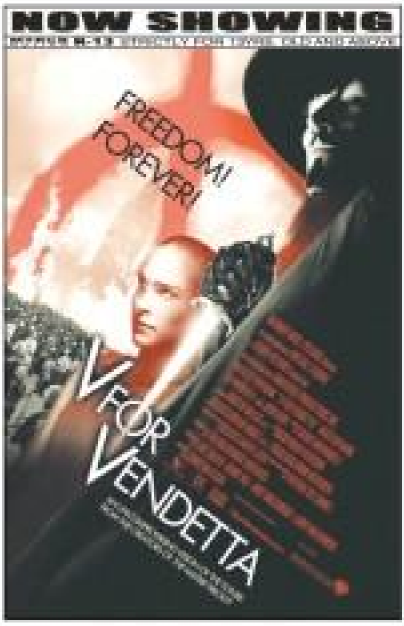



#1 MOVIE OF THE WEEK!
EDGE OF YOUR SEAT ACTION FROM START TO END.
BRUCE WILLIS
MOS DEF DAVID MORSE
1 WITNESS. 118 MINUTES.
16 BLOCKS
RICHARD DONNER
PG-13
NOW SHOWING


ARANETA CENTER
Gateway MALL FarmersPlaza
DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL ONE-NIGHT-ONLY PERFORMANCE!
sergio mendes
&brasil 2006
a celebration of his timeless hits
live in manila
tomorrow night at the araneta coliseum
Cineplex 10
BREAKING NEWS
HOSTEL
V FOR VENDETTA
HOUSE OF FURY
YOURS, MINE & OURS
SHAGGY DOG
V FOR VENDETTA
SHE'S THE MAN
CASANOVA
14 BLOCKS
MALL CINEMAS
1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 HOSTEL
3 THE FEARLESS
4 HOUSE OF FURY
5 SHE'S THE MAN

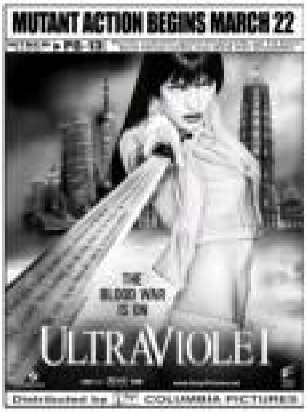

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
SHANG CINEPLEX
FESTIVAL CINEMAS
EASTWOOD CINEMAS
CINEMA 2000
Blue Wave
starmall
THEATRES
PACIFIC MALL CINEMAGIC
MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

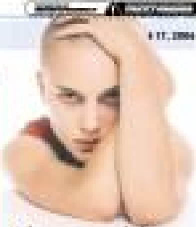

NEXT ATTRACTION
SHARON STONE
Seduction
Manipulation
Perversion
BASIC INSTINCT 2
Everything begins in the mind.









# The sparkling Ms Portman



Only IN Hollywood

Ruben V. Nepales

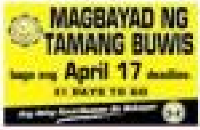


## WHAT'S INSIDE





# Business




# BOP surplus triples to $2.03B

## Inquirer Monitor

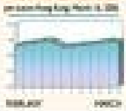
Balance of trade



## Investments, remittances seen to push up windfall

THE PHILIPPINES POSTED A BALANCE OF PAYments surplus of $2.03 billion from January to February, about three times greater than the $685 million registered in the same period last year.

## Currencies



Shares up 0.48%

## Peso closes at 51.14 after hitting 51:$1 in intra-day trade






# CAP clients urge SC to junk RTC order

## Motion filed to reverse decision allowing CAP to stop payment of policies

[illegible]

# Sycip: US dev't ideas do not ensure success

[illegible]

## Peso closes …

[illegible]

## BOP surplus …

[illegible]



# Equitable fever

COCKTAILS

Victor C. Agustin

#### Zobel premium

#### Heard through the grapevine

| Investment Funds of | UNIT PRICES (in Php) | |
|---|---|---|
| | March 13, 2006 | March 6, 2006 |
| Fixed Income Fund | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Balanced Fund | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Equity Fund | [illegible] | [illegible] |

| PRULINK | PRU LIFE UK | |
|---|---|---|
| | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Bond Fund - Peso | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Managed Fund - Peso | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Growth Fund - Peso | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Bond Fund - US Dollar | [illegible] | [illegible] |

# Nokia moves to win provincial markets

# Panlilio group to put up hotel

## Boulevard Holdings to spend P91M for Puerto Galera project



By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

BOULEVARD HOLDINGS Inc. of the Panlilio family is spending roughly P91 million for a new high-end boutique hotel in Bongaon Beach, Puerto Galera, in Mindoro.

Jose Marcel Panlilio, chair of Boulevard Holdings told reporters after a briefing last Wednesday that ground-breaking for the 20-room hotel was scheduled for 2007.

The hotel, to be dubbed "Fridays Puerto Galera," will be its second resort hotel.

It will sit on a four-hectare property within a well-known dive, beach and lagoon destination in Mindoro.

"The most important factor here is BHI's ability to take advantage of the most extensive land bank of beach destinations already bought 30 years or so ago by the family," Panlilio said.

Fridays' Holdings is the owner and operator of Fridays Resort in Boracay.

The hotel has recently expanded to 47 luxurious rooms from 41 rooms.

Last year, occupancy rate at the Boracay hotel was at 70 percent versus the island's 60 percent.

In the next five years, Boulevard Holdings will expand Fridays Resort to 61 rooms.

Boulevard Holdings owns 77 percent of Fridays' Holdings and plans to buy out the rest of the shareholders this year.

Revenues from Fridays Resort is expected to grow to P141 million this year from P124 million last year or up 14.9 percent.

Boulevard Holdings is owned by the Panlilio Group of Companies, which operates one of the biggest local chains of hotels and resorts.

## Shares up 0.65%

From page B1

banks to sell their non-performing assets free from some taxes. The Special Purpose Vehicle Law is set to be signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Estimates show between P300 billion to P350 billion worth of soured loans and foreclosed assets out of about P420 billion may be sold under special purpose vehicles.

The composite index added 13.88 points to 2,141.77. It traded between 2,127.51 and 2,147.27. The broader all-shares index advanced 4.81 points to 1,046.67.

Volume reached 368.5 million shares worth P1.7 billion. Gainers outnumbered losers 58 to 35, while 40 stocks ended unchanged.

The peso averaged at 51.47 to the US dollar in sluggish trade. AFP

# BSP tightens rules on dealings with banks, PDIC

## Ensuring policies are consistent with mandate

By Doris C. Dumlao

## Thrift banks map out fund-raising strategies, plans

## Bingo operator eyes new investor



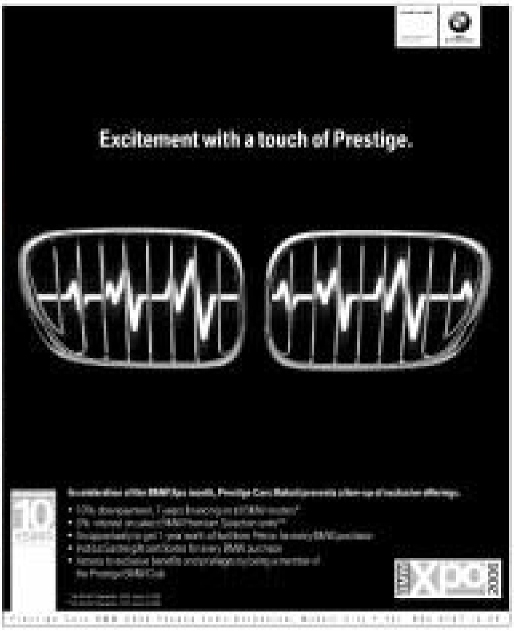


PEZA grants Pioneer Status to HKT Philippines, Inc. (HKTPI). On February 22, 2006, the Phil. Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) signed a Supplemental Agreement with HKTPI granting Pioneer Status to HKTPI. From L-R: Atty. Pia Loreen P. Ballas, Legal Counsel (HKTPI), Mr. Moses Yamazaki, President (HKTPI), Hon. Lilia B. de Lima, Director General (PEZA) and Mr. Anthony D. Torres, Vice President (HKTPI).

# PAL earnings seen up despite higher cost

## Increased passenger traffic a big boost






# Women farmers' new project

COMMENTARY



# Visa pushes electronic payment systems

# Sarangani farmers earn from contract growing

# NEA bucks debt deal

**BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS**
Makati City, Metro Manila

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

April 6, 2006

To The Stockholders:

1. Calling of Meeting to Order
2. Certification of Notice
3. Determination and Declaration of Quorum
4. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders on April 7, 2005 and the Special Meeting on November 11, 2005
5. Reading of Annual Report and approval of the Bank's Statement of Condition as of December 31, 2005 incorporated in the Annual Report
6. Approval and Confirmation of all Acts during the past year of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and all other Board and Management Committees and Officers of BPI
7. Election of 15 Members of the Board of Directors
8. Election of External Auditors and Fixing their Remuneration
9. Declaration of Stock Dividend
10. Directors' Bonus
11. Other Matters

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Sgd.) CARLOS B. AQUINO
Vice President &
Corporate Secretary

# BUSINESS

## Commercial lending up

By Doris C. Dumlao

COMMERCIAL LENDING PICKED UP by 5 percent in January from last year on higher demand by financial institutions and real estate firms, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

The lending growth posted in January which brought outstanding commercial loans to P1.61 trillion, was an improvement from the marginal 0.9-percent rise in December.

The financial institutions, real estate and business services sector posted the biggest loan growth of 28.5 percent, followed by the community, social and personal services sector (7.6 percent) and the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector (7.4 percent).

But the BSP reported a drop in lending to other key sectors, such as construction (31.2 percent), mining and quarrying (9.1 percent), electricity, gas and water (1.5 percent) and manufacturing (7.4 percent).

There was likewise a decline in outstanding loans to wholesale and retail trade (4.7 percent), and the transportation, storage and communication sectors (4.4 percent).

"Commercial bank lending activity remains moderate as a result of prevailing high levels of nonperforming loans (NPLs) and the resulting cautious lending stance of most commercial banks as well as sluggish corporate demand," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

He said the BSP remained focused on its efforts to strengthen overall asset quality in the banking sector as a means of encouraging lending activity to the real sector.

Earlier this week, Congress passed a bill reviving the Special Purpose Vehicle Law, which aims to clean up the banking system's bad assets through fiscal incentives to asset transfers.



NEW ZEALAND Prime Minister Helen Clark on Thursday visited San Miguel Corp.'s headquarters in Mandaluyong City. Ms Clark was welcomed by SMC chair and CEO Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. (right) and SMC president and COO Ramon S. Ang. SMC has investments in Australia and New Zealand through its subsidiaries.



## DOF fears impact of bill on perks

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE HAS EXPRESSED concern that the fiscal incentives rationalization bill passed by Congress would not only bring huge revenue losses from generous tax perks, and could even lead to [illegible].

The DOF therefore is preparing its own draft of the rationalization plan, which it would submit to the Senate, in the hope that the upper chamber would adopt it.

According to DOF estimates, the government loses about P300 billion a year in potential revenue due to the granting of fiscal incentives, including tax and duty exemptions granted to enterprises in priority industries.

Businesses enjoying fiscal incentives include those registered with the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority.

The source said the DOF has yet to finish computing the impact of the House bill, but said initial indications showed that it would lead to revenue losses.

The finance official said one provision of the house bill that the DOF wanted amended was the granting of a maximum 20-year income tax holiday to enterprises covered by the Investment Priorities Plan (IPP).

The official said that while the House bill would achieve the purpose of consolidating several fiscal-incentives laws into one, it would defeat the government's objective of arresting huge foregone revenues because incentives were hardly reduced.

The source said the DOF would likewise push for the creation of an inter-agency body to serve as the policy maker on the granting of fiscal incentives.

The House bill, which adopted provisions of the bill proposed by the BOI, the BOI will be the policy-making body and administrator of the fiscal incentives at the same time.

The DOF prefers an inter-agency body rather than a single office to handle policy-making matters related to fiscal incentives to balance the interests of concerned government agencies.

## Gov't to keep trade policies

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE COUNTRY IS LEAVING BEHIND AN OLD economy and political order in push ahead as part of a globalized world economy, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said.

Speaking before a meeting of the Asia Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce, Ms Arroyo blasted [illegible] groups that oppose the country's active participation in world trade as well as those against her administration.

The President said these people were clinging to discredited economic thoughts.

"I am committed to create finance and entrepreneurship, not micromanagement," she said. "I am for good jobs, not [illegible]."

Answering the forum meeting's theme "Is the world really flat?," the Chief Executive said "Yes," adding that the government was sustaining efforts to make the economy conducive to business and investments.

The theme alludes to the bestselling book by New York Times columnist Thomas L. Friedman that [illegible] trade and globalization.

But Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said that world was not flat enough for him.

Focusing on current efforts in the World Trade Organization on a new round of negotiations, Favila said a "flat" world was one where each economy could operate within the same rules simply because trade players was just as strong as the next one.

The trade chief added that the government would continue to take steps in ensuring that trade with richer economies were "fair" for Filipinos, saying it would only agree on tariff reduction provided that developed countries remove trade practices like subsidies on local producers.

# BUSINESS *Friday*

# She'd rather get customers than job offers

## Average student who dabbles in dog food and sugarcane juice wins marketing tilt



## *Social marketing is brand's key to success*

# RP wins gold at Asia Ad Awards



CREATIVE team of JWT David Ferrer, and Joey Ong with their Gold and Silver Lotus Crystal Ball awards.





## She'd rather...

# 'Does customer . . .

## Loyalty started with disloyalty

# Know the market and know it well






# Filipinos, saving more for the future

## Treasure every moment

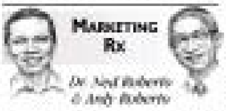
## Save up for retirement

## Aid to financial planning

## Committed to serve

### A Guide to Retirement

# 'Does customer satisfaction always translate into loyalty?'




### No satisfaction = no loyalty






TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

# LifeStyle





# Forever-pink nipples?



Thelma Sioson San Juan



In this era of whitening, women want a different blush, from face to toe





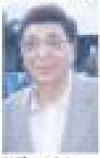














# A thousand thrills at the Polo Club

**WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH**



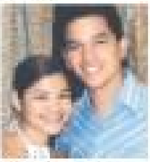
*Maurice Arcache*

## New home shop

## Awesome











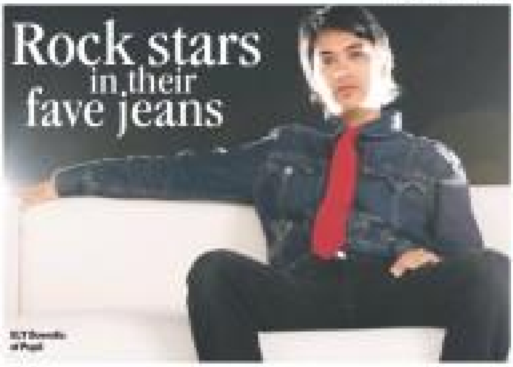








# Rock stars in their fave jeans



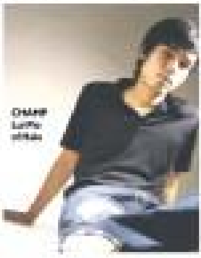
ELY Buendia of Pupil

LEVI'S IS UNDOUBTEDLY A staple in every rock star's closet. Just ask Ely Buendia of Pupil, Champ Lui Pio of Hale, Ebe Dancel of Sugarfree, Ala de Leon of Imago, and Miyo Dimaculangan and Ryo Sarmiento of 6 Cycle Mind.

The trend-setting clothing brand has a long tradition of supporting the local music scene, and now it's backing up hot musicians for the revolutionary show "MTV Homecoming."

Levi's chalks the coolest rockers as they drop by their former schools and neighborhood hangouts to delight fans and friends with a thrilling performance.

Watch how Miyo and Ryo go back to their alma mater, Don Bosco Makati, and how Ala has a blast visiting St. Scholastica. Ebe also traces his roots at UP Los Baños, Champ as a ... at ..., and Ely surprises everyone at University of Perpetual Help.



CHAMP Lui Pio of Hale



IMAGO: Tim Cacho, Myrene Academia, Zach Lucero and Ala de Leon

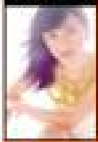
# Exhibit mounted to mark anniversary

GOINGS ON

# LifeStyle

Contributing editor
Ria Francisco-Prieto

KNOCKOUT!



Ria Francisco-Prieto

# Ray of light

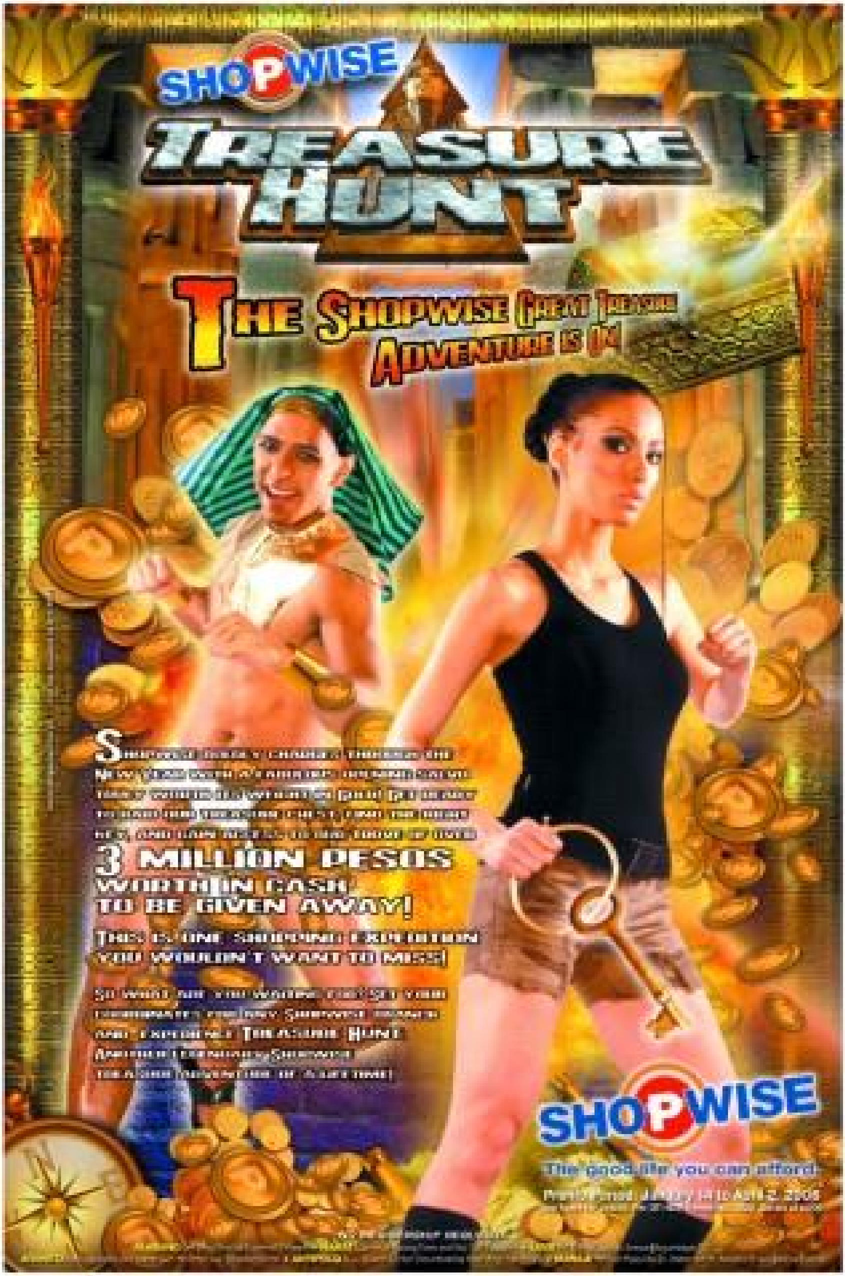
Shed some light on your skin



BEAUTY

WIN THIS!







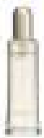
# Ray of light



## Wake up and smell the flowers

### Lighten up and go for tropical fragrances







### The nose knows

## General cleansing inside and out

Makeover 911



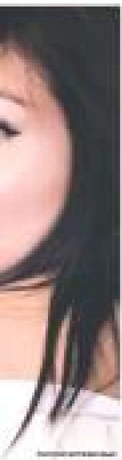
## How to fake a tan

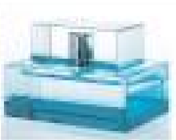


### Too much sun-tanning may damage your skin

SUMMER IS HERE AND IT is time to have that sun-kissed look. Most of us head for the beach and lie under the sun.







# More Choices, Better Deals, Great Prizes in BPI Real 0%, No Sweat Installment Madness

BPI Express Credit ushers in the sizzling summer months with the most awaited shopping event of the year, the BPI Installment Madness, from March 15 to April 2, 2006 at the Glorietta Ayala Center.

Now on its 17th staging, the BPI Installment Madness is famous for providing BPI Express credit cardholders the best value for their credit card with the greatest merchandising mix.

It features top brand home appliances, the most elegant furniture and home furnishings, indoor sports equipment, the hottest cellphones, and digital and electronic products. And the best thing about it is that credit cardholders can choose from an option of charging and converting their transactions on installment through the Special Installment Plan (S.I.P.) facility of their BPI Express Credit Cards with really low interest rates! It gives them up to 24 months to pay for their purchases at affordable installment rates.

The BPI Installment Madness is the perfect opportunity for BPI Express Credit cardholders to update their basic as well as luxury household needs, upgrade their cellphones and gadgets, and purchase their long-wished-for cameras and computers.

Add to that a fabulous mix of instant freebies everyday and the BPI Installment Madness is surely one shopping event one shouldn't miss.

That's not all. BPI Express Credit cardholders who use their BPI Express Credit Classic, Express Credit Blue MasterCard, Express Credit Gold MasterCard, Petron-BPI MasterCard and BPI Edge/Mini Edge in purchasing items at real 0% interest are assured of absolutely no hidden charges installment deals! Because unlike other credit card purchases wherein you pay just the minimum amount due or 5% of the outstanding balance every month, chances are your 0% installment purchases actually get interest. That's why the BPI 0% interest is for real!

Plus! Cardholders who make purchases in the BPI Installment Madness promo are also entitled to join BPI Express Credit Card's existing promos: the [illegible] about small and the Make It Happen promo.

The [illegible] about small promo gives BPI Express Credit cardholders the chance to win a Nissan Patrol 4x4. All they have to do is make a minimum ₱1,000 single receipt regular purchase or a ₱3,000 single receipt S.I.P. purchase in Glorietta.

BPI Express Credit's Make It Happen promo, meanwhile, gives cardholders the chance to win a trip to a trip to the United State's popular theme parks, a Mediterranean Cruise, a 2006 Porsche Boxster and a 2006 Audi A4 Avant. All they have to do is make a minimum ₱1,000 single receipt regular purchase or a ₱3,000 single receipt S.I.P. purchase at any BPI accredited merchant nationwide.

Not a BPI Express Credit Cardholder yet? Sign up now and get the chance to be part of the shopping frenzy of the BPI Installment Madness. That and numerous exclusive features and privileges like superior security against fraud with the Europay MasterCard/VISA-compliant chip, lower finance charges, low foreign currency conversion rates for purchases made abroad, no hidden charges, and payment convenience anytime anywhere via the Express Phone, Express Online, and in over 1,200 ATMs and 700 BPI or BPI Family Bank branches nationwide.

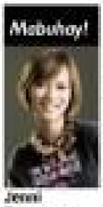
So make sure you make the most of your money. Take advantage of the BPI Real 0%, No Sweat Installment Madness.





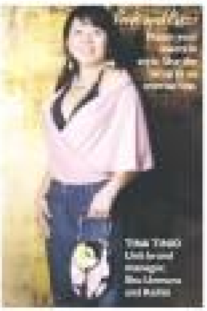

# To infinity and beyond!

For P349, you can come up with at least 12 ways to wear the Infinity Wrap from Penshoppe. That's P29 per look!



Jenni Epperson

IT'S A WARP-speed life these days, and we're all struggling to keep up with the pace. We're multi-tasking at work. Our mobile phones can do just about anything (I'm waiting for one that can do the dishes, or sort my closet!). And the more "all-in-one" the gadget or accessory, the better!



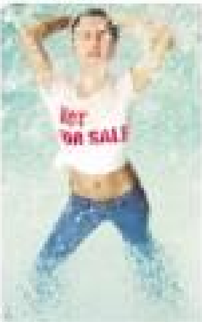


# Splash dance

Ino Caluza's jeans line under his very own Viktor label is not 'couture,' but it very well may be



DRENCHED [illegible]





WET [illegible]



SOAKED to the skin

By Alex Y. Vergara

TWO YEARS AFTER COMING up with his first pair of made-to-order jeans, Victorino "Ino" Caluza still feels a bit queasy whenever people describe his creations as "couture."

[illegible]

### Figure flaws

[illegible]





THE JEAN pool

[illegible]

E-mail the author at [illegible]

## To infinity and beyond!

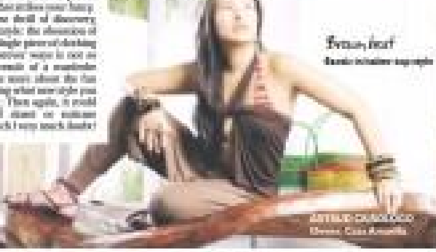
[illegible]



CAT JUAN [illegible]



[illegible]



[illegible]



AMINA ARANAZ-ALUNAN
Aranaz bag designer, model

# brag board

Go beach bound with summer sizzling treats made for style stars of the Boracay beach



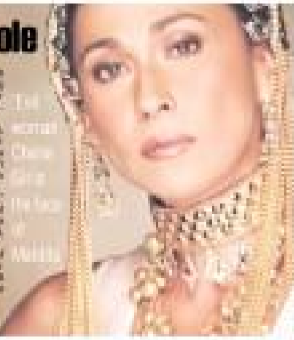
VINTAGE VIXEN.

NATURALLY CHIC.

WALK PROUD, WALK PINOY.

FASHION FLASH

# Villainess lands lead role




Double Midnight Madness SALE
UP TO 70% OFF
March 17 and 18: Up to 12 midnight
March 19: Extended Sale during mall hours
Happy ever after begin here.
Ayala Malls


NEW!
FISH 'N RICE
₱70 only
24 hours
8 6 2 3 6
M C D O
Magpa-deliver na!